

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements.

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Back from the Dead.

General Pancho Villa is back from the dead. His brave incursion into Chihuahua City was the sort of coup de theatre in which he has always delighted. No other Mexican soldier of fortune or graduate from the profession of banditry now posing as a champion of what Mr. Wilson calls the "righteous processes of revolution" in Mexico could have conceived or executed so bold and dramatic a stroke. It was just the thing needed to rehabilitate Villa as a guerrilla chieftain in the political and military situation in Northern Mexico.

What a commentary on the futility of the Administration's Mexican policy since the attack on Columbus, N. M., this spectacular Villa raid on Chihuahua furnishes! The Pershing expedition went across the border with orders—so it was announced in Washington at the time—to bring back Villa "alive or dead." Villa was never overtaken. His hiding place was never discovered. It was reported that he was seriously wounded and could never take the field again. Then the news came that he had died.

The American forces and Carranza's forces, which were supposed to be hunting him down, dropped the chase and began watching each other's movements with anything but friendly interest. Two clashes soon occurred—one at Parral and another at Carrizal. The United States and Mexico were brought to the brink of war. Villa and the crime of Columbus suddenly slipped into the background. The only avowed purpose of the Pershing expedition—to bring back Villa "alive or dead"—was forgotten. The Administration now refused to withdraw American troops from Mexico, although they had ceased to hunt for Villa. They were to be kept there largely on a point of punctilio—because the Carranza government had demanded their recall.

Yet neither side really wished to appeal to arms. After some parleying a joint commission was created and charged with an impossible task. It was asked, on the one hand, to save the Administration's face in withdrawing Pershing's troops by delivering a finding to the effect that Carranza's government has now succeeded in restoring order in Northern Mexico. On the other hand, it was expected to produce guarantees—paper ones, at least—of security for our own border population and for the protection of Americans beyond the border—yet without unduly abandoning Mr. Wilson's fantastic theory that the Mexicans must be left free to carry through the processes of the present revolution, whatever the inconvenience and annoyance to us in American property destroyed and American lives sacrificed.

But now Villa has come back. He is the skeleton in the closet at the New London conference. If he can rush Chihuahua, the metropolis of Northern Mexico; capture arms and ammunition, release prisoners and march away with part of the Carranza soldiery as recruits, how can it be established—even by a paper declaration—that the Carranza government exercises as yet anything but the most nominal and shadowy authority in the Mexican border states? If the whole world knows that Carranza's guarantees of protection and order are valueless, how is the President to find any justification for withdrawing the Pershing expedition now, after refusing to withdraw it three months ago?

In June Villa had disappeared. He was supposed to be dead. The mission of the Pershing expedition was apparently fulfilled, so far as Villa was concerned. But to-day he is campaigning again in the flesh, defeating Carranza's generals, invading Carranza's strongholds, gathering men and munitions for further guerrilla warfare. If he is at large in Chihuahua, able to stand off Carranza's troops and to make himself once more a peril to Americans still in Mexico and to our feebly guarded border towns, it is just as much the Administration's mission to-day to capture him "alive or dead" as it was in the weeks following the Columbus massacre.

Villa is still the Nemesis of the Administration's intervention policy in Mexico. He was the instrument chosen by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan to overthrow Huerta and to humble the Mexican ruling classes. He was favored, encouraged and flattered by Washington until his own vices of character undermined him and Obregon defeated him in the field. He is the agent of revolution of whom John Lind is credited with writing to Mr. Bryan:

"To make a dog feel that he really is a cur he must be whipped by another dog, and preferably by a cur. Consequently, let this housecleaning be done by home talent. It will be a little rough, and we must see to it that the walls are left intact, but I should not worry if some of the verandas and French windows were demolished.

do the job very satisfactorily, as a good friend and truly unselfish one, only desiring Mexico's good."

The "good, unselfish friend" of those salad days of the Administration's diplomacy in Mexico is now from its point of view the embodiment of villainy, savagery and insane hatred of the United States. Yet he has never changed his spots. It hardly needs the spectacular return from the dead to demonstrate the hollowness of the plans which the Administration has in hand for celebrating Carranza's pacification of Northern Mexico as an accomplished fact, and of using that fact to justify the withdrawal of Pershing's troops and the issuance to Carranza of a new permit to continue the work of ruin and anarchy which passes with Mr. Wilson under the grandiose and semi-respectable name of "revolution."

Where the Fault Lies.

Mayor Mitchell and Chairman Straus of the Public Service Commission are eminently sound in their declaration that the integrity of trade unionism is not at issue in the traction strike. Collective bargaining is a principle which has come to stay. It is sanctioned by the courts and by successful operation. Even the blindness of employers knows that his employees will take advantage of it in some form or other and may do so without let or hindrance.

What is at issue now is not the principle of unionism, but the practices of some of the union organizers. And on that issue they deserve the condemnation which the Mayor and Mr. Straus have heaped on them for the breaches of faith which they have permitted, and even encouraged, their deluded followers to make.

From the walkout of the surface car workers up to the preparations for the general "sympathetic strike," this lamentable affair has been a disaster for the unfortunate individuals who have followed Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. O'Shea, Mr. Frayne and the rest of the organizers. It is an indictment of the overzealous professional in labor troubles. The settlement of the August strike against the surface lines by the Mayor and Mr. Straus was a distinct victory for Fitzgerald and the Amalgamated union. He crowded his luck when he insisted on the taking back of employees who had been convicted of law-breaking in the sporadic rioting which accompanied that brief disturbance. But the company executives gave in to avoid further trouble.

Apparently this success went to his head. When he failed to convince the interborough employees that they were oppressed and maltreated—worse still, when he was utterly unable to persuade them to join his union and pay dues into its treasury—he and his fellows encouraged and sanctioned a strike against the subsidiary company, operating the surface cars, which was a deliberate violation of the arbitration agreement and a gross breach of faith. Every subsequent strike—the Third Avenue, the Second Avenue, the Bronx and the Queens walkouts—merely added dishonor to this first offence. If the general strike actually does come to pass it will constitute the crowning infamy.

Honest, sincere labor unionists must realize what a damaging thing it is to have the honor and good faith of unionism so stained by the mistakes or misdeeds of the leaders of an important, country-wide organization. The public has been driven to believe that the signature of a union leader to a solemn agreement for the protection of the public is valueless. Public sympathy, therefore, has been alienated, not alone from the strikers in this affair, but from workers who blindly yield themselves to the guidance of professional organizers.

Wiser leaders than Mr. Fitzgerald may reestablish confidence in the honesty of unions if they refuse to permit their followers to be stampeded into an unjustified general strike, with its attendant disorder and lawbreaking. If they, too, make the mistake of putting technicalities above honor, a bitter class spirit above the welfare of the community, they will inevitably fail as he has failed, and only increase the damage which he has done to the cause which they all profess to serve.

Fighting the Censorship Blight.

The National Association of the Motion Picture Industry is to be congratulated on its decision to fight all attempts to impose an official censorship, whether local, state or national. There can be no temporizing with the censorship idea. Any other course than a thoroughgoing, uncompromising fight against it wherever it is manifest would lead to a multiplication of evils.

Whether the production of motion pictures be considered an art or merely an industry, it is inevitable that more harm than good must come from any official censorship of pictures. The principle is undemocratic, repugnant to every conception of the liberty of thought and expression which good Americans cherish. As a promoter of morality or a protector of morals it is a lamentable delusion. Moreover, as the late Mayor Gaynor frequently pointed out, official censorship is unnecessary. If a breach of decency and morality occurs, ample power is lodged in the police authorities to take action. In this city, moreover, the Supreme Court has just denied the application of a producer of a picture play for an injunction to prevent the License Commissioner from stopping it because it was indecent. The incident proves that the public is protected, under existing agencies, whenever there is ground for complaint.

A censorship could give no greater protection than this. It would afford infinite opportunity for mistakes in suppressing good as well as in permitting evil to slip through to the public. Worse than all, it would, if it worked thoroughly, prevent the public from deciding for itself what is good and what is bad—a denial of the opportunity for moral and mental growth,

which must inevitably be worse than the effects of the negligible amount of really vicious material which now finds its way into circulation.

The Submarine Issue in the Reichstag.

A general airing of the submarine situation appears to be inevitable in view of the issue between Professor Valentini and Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, and some interesting facts may possibly be revealed soon after the opening of the Reichstag's sessions next week. At present it is difficult to determine exactly what has happened. The Chancellor, the late Minister of the Navy, the professor who made the charges against him and the professor who published them are manifestly at odds, and professors and ministers are freely accusing one another of lying. That somebody has said the thing that is not there can be no doubt, the only question being how many have allowed their imaginations to get the better of them, and to what extent they have decorated or departed from demonstrable truth.

Besides the mutual accusations of lying, which are not uncommon in German controversies, there are dark hints at theft. Tirpitz, it is said, deceived the Reichstag in every way. He lied about the number of submarines available for his great blockade and he lied about the results after the blockade had been established, his false statements about the tonnage destroyed misleading the whole country about the possibilities of submarine warfare and the prospect of starving the sin-ful inhabitants of the British Isles. Not only did he deceive the public, however, but he hoodwinked the Foreign Office, too, with his doctored figures, and the truth would never have been revealed had not the secret archives of the Admiralty been robbed.

This discovery is attributed to Professor Valentini, who, however, flatly denies that he ever said anything about stealing. His friend, Professor Grossman, invented that part of the story or dreamt it, he thinks, together with something he is supposed to have said about the Chancellor. Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg and Admiral von Tirpitz are now so deeply involved in the quarrel that they can hardly free themselves without some sort of public discussion of the issue. It is likely then that there may be some more or less curious revelations in the Reichstag before long.

Rounding Up the Slackers.

Public opinion—always a potent force in Great Britain and always forcibly expressed—has compelled the War Office to abandon its spectacular "round-ups" in search of young men who have shirked their obligation to enlist. These methods, while they lasted, are reported to have attained some satisfactory results, but nothing to justify the inconvenience they placed upon the public.

One round-up was held in a busy railway station at early morning. Police stationed at the gates herded together commuters and travellers alighting from their trains and asked them to prove by what right they abstained from enlistment in the army. Those who lacked the necessary certificate of exemption were taken to the police station and there detained until relatives, summoned by telephone, arrived with the necessary papers. Finally all the prisoners obtained their releases but one; and even he proved in the end his right to a certificate of exemption as a "conscientious objector." Another big round-up was held at the Newmarket races, where the police failed to get a single slacker. At a large fair in the North of England they were more successful, for here they found a lion tamer who ought to be at the front. He complained at the hearing that he had been taken from the lion's cage, showing that while the British police may lack discretion they do not lack courage.

The War Office makes two explanations of its raids. One is that they were inaugurated in response to numerous complaints that young men of military age were permitted to be at large and unmolested, while older men were compelled to serve. The raids have apparently disposed of this theory. The other explanation is that the raids had a considerable moral effect in frightening men who had tried to evade military service to the point where they voluntarily enlist. Fortunately or not, a howl of public protest forced the discontinuance of these raids too soon to enable either purpose to be thoroughly carried out.

"Tante Voss."

Frequent references in the press to "Aunt Voss" and the appearance of that person in war cartoons depicted as a stout, elderly German woman may have puzzled some English people who do not know that "Aunt Voss" is a newspaper. They know it better by its proper name, "Vossische Zeitung"—the Voss newspaper, Voss being the family name of the founders. It was established 212 years ago as "a royally privileged gazette," which claim it still makes on its title page and is by reason of its age that Germany knows it as "Aunt Voss." It was a Radical journal, shorn of much of its former influence, and in recent years its proprietorship has changed several times. Eight years ago it passed from the Voss family. Its present proprietors seek to maintain its "intellectual" flavor in face of much popular competition. By reason of its excellent war service it has been much quoted by the English press.

New York's Primary.

For some reason concealed from the general public, President Wilson is highly elated at the primary results in New York State. He scans the figures of Tuesday's vote and exclaims a Democratic victory, but his formula for computing election statistics is eminently the Wilson Democratic. As told, this is probably the greatest Democratic victory since the Republicans swept Maine last week.

The Mirror.

Slow-moving moonlight once did pass Across the dreaming looking-glass, Where, sunk involuntarily deep, Old secrets unforgetfully sleep. Of beauties unforgetfully.

But dusty cobwebs are woven now Across that mirror, which of old Saw fingers drawing back the gold From an untroubled brow. And the depths are blinded to the moon. LEONARD HUXLEY.

TOO EARLY A DATE

Parent Thinks School Opening Should Wait Till All Danger Is Over.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In your paper of this morning announcement is made of the intention of the League of Parents of the 18th School District to enjoin the Board of Education from opening the public schools September 25, unless the board at its meeting to-day decides to take that step.

I am glad that some representative body has the courage to take this action. It is but voicing the sentiments and fears of parents in all sections of the city. It is a mystery to most persons why the Board of Education should have decided on that date for bringing together the children and teachers of New York City, where the epidemic has been most fierce and where the danger of spreading the disease is greatest, while all the outlying districts—Yonkers, Jersey City, Newark and the Oranges—have named October 2 as the earliest date when they were willing to risk the opening of their schools. What does it mean? Is it an effort on the part of the Board of Education to please the taxpayers? Well, here is one instance where the taxpayers think more of their children than of their pockets.

Of course, the parents are not compelled to run the risk of sending their children to school on that date, and I have heard many a parent say: "They may open their schools when they please, but my child shall not go until I am satisfied it is safe." And evidently, when the United States Public Health Service and the state and city health departments are advising parents to keep their children in the home, it is not possible, and we are warning children in the city to refrain from playing together or congregating in large numbers—that time has not come yet.

But how about the teachers? They, at least, must obey the summons if it is issued by the Board of Education, and is not the risk just as great for them as for the children? "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It is to be hoped the Board of Education will decide to postpone the opening of the schools. If not, by all means let the League of Parents carry out its intention. A PARENT.

New York, Sept. 20, 1916.

Not Real Estate Prosperity.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: By reading the daily papers and the bulletins of some of the big Wall Street and other private bankers one would be made to believe that this country has never been so prosperous as in these days, simply because the banks are overloaded with money and the number of depositors has increased, despite the fact that we now have postal savings banks to compete with said banks. But is all that true in general?

What have owners of real property to say about it? Is it not a fact that the owner of real estate, especially the owner of apartments, flats or tenement houses and the majority of those who own their own homes in and out of the city, are either already in a state of ruin or on the verge of ruin on account of the highest rate of taxation ever witnessed in this state and city during the last thirty years and the ever increasing burden of municipal order and nonsensical violations placed upon said properties?

If it is true that there is so much prosperity running loose, why is it that mortgages on real estate are so hard to obtain even at 5 or 6 1/2 per cent? Is it because the banks are loaning their money to European countries on war loans rather than loan it to their own countrymen on good real estate security? And if times are so good, why is it that individuals, banks and trust companies are demanding that mortgages be reduced? Why, if banks are full of money, do they want to strangle the deserving class of citizens who in real estate, especially in money and invested in real estate, especially when said mortgages are absolutely safe, interest and taxes promptly paid and property well taken care of? Is there any sense in destroying the welfare of others when the banks are full of money? JOHN BOZZUFFI.

New York, Sept. 16, 1916.

Self-Expression Through Music.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It was a pleasure to read the editorial in your issue of the 14th on community music, as it expressed sentiments with which the New Singing Society is heartily in accord.

There is a widespread and increasing desire for self-expression through music which can be utilized in splendid, well-organized mass singing. To work toward this end the New Singing Society was established. Its purpose is to show the welding power of music in the most complex community, to reveal the musical capacity which almost every one has within himself and to encourage its free expression; to teach the right way to produce vocal music, that the full measure of harmony and beauty may be obtained, and to teach sight reading in order that knowledge may strengthen mere love for musical expression.

The New Singing Society has drawn together a group of young men and women who are developing a love for and appreciation of music and a purity and beauty of tone in mass singing which promises great things for the future.

The conductor, Mr. L. Camilleri, is admirably equipped by education and experience to carry out the ideals herein expressed.

The New Singing Society welcomes all young men and women at its Monday and Thursday meetings at 209 East 121st street.

EDITH L. JARDINE, Secretary.

New York, Sept. 18, 1916.

Our Greatest Need.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: We hear much talk of national defence, of how large an army and navy we need, of how many ships and guns and aeroplanes we should have. Yes, it is true; we must have these things if we are to make ourselves secure upon our borders. Yet we have possessions to defend which we may think too little of, and enemies with which our backs are to the wall.

Our ships and guns are weapons to protect us from assault beyond our coasts. What of the traitors within—the cowardice in our own souls that makes us flinch from loss of money or of ease, the baseness which puts honor in the balance with safety to our persons and our purses, and lets the latter weigh down the scales?

What profit to us our wide lands, our heavy gold, if our souls are small and mean? Those peoples are happy, though they suffer, when they suffer for the right, who are strong to war with the enemy without because the citadel of the soul is secure against attack. LOUISE HENRY.

Sheffield, Mass., Sept. 12, 1916.

The Chance to Work Eight Hours.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: No wonder President Wilson is in favor of the "eight-hour" day. Before the great European war started, bringing "Democratic" prosperity, most laboring men were lucky if they could get in a four-hour day. The election of Charles E. Hughes will insure all labor an eight-hour day, and probably overtime besides, a prosperity not founded on the battlefields of Europe, but on intelligent Republican doctrines. ARTHUR WARE.

New York, Sept. 21, 1916.

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ISSUES

Comment and Criticism from Tribune Readers on Various Phases of the Canvass—Mr. Wilson's Failure to Protect American Lives and Maintain American Rights—Prosperity Now and After the War—Regularly and Independently.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Our world is full of bloodshed and despair. The only nation capable of exerting any real moral influence upon the destiny of the nations is the United States. As never before this world needs the American ideal of human rights—fair play and the right of every individual to the fruit of his own labor, to his liberty and to his life. Mr. Wilson has had just one opportunity of preaching this ideal in effective fashion—maintaining the rights of his fellow citizens, whether at home, in China, Mexico, Turkey or on the wastes of the seas. Even the heathen, when compelled to treat an American right, can from that very example learn to treat each other right. To treat the rights of a fellow citizen in Mexico as a matter of little or no concern is to play traitor to the rights of humanity.

There has never been such an opportunity to give to our people and to our children after us the freedom of the world—to make Americans free wherever they go and to make each of our sons and neighbors who go abroad for profit or pleasure a living epistle of freedom to the world.

Our nation is founded upon the blood of those who fought for freedom within our bounds. We build monuments to these patriots, not to those who "kept us out of war." How much greater the achievement could we but attain to a world freedom for ourselves and others.

Mr. Wilson's failure has been the same in Europe, in Asia, on the sea and in Mexico. In Mexico he began his policy with the dictum, not of American rights for American citizens, but "Huerta must go." Instead of sending soldiers and gentlemen to do this work, he employed the bandit Villa, with the license of abundant arms and ammunition—his Presidential blessing. Villa, natural and his Presidential blessing, proceeded to fill that unhappy land with blood and rapine. Religious people were the blood and rapine. Religious people were the blood and rapine. Religious people were the blood and rapine.

Suppose he had possessed the moral courage to follow a beginning made with his Vera Cruz expedition. He would have sent another force to Tampico, and, later on, another and still another force to other places where he had good reason and better right to send them. Just as happened at Vera Cruz, each post so occupied would have been an isle of peace and prosperity in the midst of that sea of wretchedness. From these centres the Mexicans themselves could have organized the enforcement of their own peace. Americans would have been known for generations to come as the saviors of Mexico, and Mexico herself could have paid the cost of this protection cheap at the price.

Instead, treaty rights and human rights to the contrary, our people have been chased out of that country by miserable banditti, and our President has not even dared to ask reparation for the blood of our soldier boys shed down while executing his orders. The name American is a scorn and a byword all through the land. Every American there who has trusted in the virtue of his citizenship has trusted to his own ruin. The country

once engaged in the extensive works in this region. Several of the smaller ones in the vicinity of Kostendji on being opened were found to contain sarcophagi, rings, ornaments and arms.

It is interesting to note that tradition in the Dobrudja ascribes its generally uncultivated, desolate condition to the Russians during the passage of the Lower Danube by the Russians advancing upon Bulgaria. This region is one of the most desolate in Southeast Europe, and in later summer and early autumn certainly the most pestiferous.

It is known that prior to the Russian occupation of Bulgaria four years ago that the majority of British cartographers did not give even its name on their maps.

Bounded on the north and west by the Danube and on the east by the Black Sea, the Dobrudja has for centuries been the refuge of evil-doers and the lawless, while in the last two generations many a conscript has fled from Rumania, Bulgaria, Russia and Hungary to find freedom in the fastnesses of its marshes. The Dobrudja under the Bulgars was a kind of No Man's land, for their authority held no farther than the general cloak of plaited reeds which they used for cover and in some Tatar families the surviving evidences of Turkish occupation—pitch their encampments in the highest spots, or make away in the unhealthy season to the rocky coast—a sorry change from the land of their forefathers, the Crimea, from which they had fled at the time of Russian conquest.

Kostendji, to give the Dobrudja's seaport its old name, which stretches along a high headland running north-northeast into the Black Sea, has an open harbor with bad anchorage. But under Rumanian auspices the place is becoming a fortified port of great importance. A few miles west of Kostendji there can be traced the east end of "The Canal of Constantia." The triangle formed by the Danube and the sea is so nearly complete that the distance from Kostendji to Tarnavoda, near the Danube end of the canal, can be walked on a good day in spring in eight or nine hours. By cutting this isthmus the Romans calculated on linking the Danube with the Black Sea, so that they might avoid the shoals and sandbanks which more or less choke all the way from the Danube to the Black Sea, and the canal they heaped up the earth from the vast trench upon the right bank, perhaps with the intention of using it as a means of defence. And to this day the folk of Tarnavoda term it "Trajan's Wall." The canal, in their neighborhood, is still full of water, but it ultimately disappears among the marshes farther eastward.

One strange feature of this melancholy, waterlogged region of marshes and knolls is the numerous barrows or tumuli which rise from all parts of the coast and dunes to the inland. In the marshes and camps, Romans and their descendants have been found in the place of them are so large as to give the appearance of natural hills. Some have thought that they mark the place of sepulchre of the officers and men killed in defensive warfare against the wild barbarians of the north. Others have conjectured that they form the burial places of the slaves

Whitman and Regularity.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: No newspaper can be independent and Republican in politics at one and the same time. If The Tribune is independent, the editorial on "The Primary" in to-day's issue is perfectly consistent, but if it is Republican the position taken in that editorial cannot be supported by good sense. My reading of The Tribune is older than the Republican party, and with the exception of the year 1872, when poor Mr. Greeley lost his head, and subsequently his life, by the dazle of the Presidency, I have read it during all that period, and I do not recall that it has ever before refused to support a regularly nominated Republican candidate.

Consequently I have called it a Republican newspaper, and so read and followed its teachings. Now it repudiates Governor Whitman for reelection. I believe in making a stiff fight before and at the primary, but if I expect to win I believe in accepting the decision of the primary, even if it doesn't go my way.

The Tribune is anxious for the election of Mr. Hughes, but does it think that it can do its best work for that end without supporting the whole ticket? Does the fact that The Tribune has a difference with the Governor in regard to state advertising justify it in allowing its personal feelings to block, in the least, the success of the Republican party in November?

If The Tribune tries to pull a straight oar for Hughes and a back-water for Whitman, its influence will move in a small circle, with no real progress or effect.

ALBERT F. SHERWOOD.

Waterbury, Conn., Sept. 20, 1916.

Mr. Hughes Was Right.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: British Columbia has just given votes to women, following the example of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, all of which have taken like action this year.

This goes to show that Mr. Hughes was right when he said the coming of woman suffrage was inevitable. Six states of the Union have granted it within the past four years, and now come these four huge Canadian provinces, following one after another, like a procession of elephants.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL.

Dorchester, Mass., Sept. 18, 1916.

THE FRIEND OF ARMENIA

Mr. Low's Warm Interest in the Welfare of an Oppressed People.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In rendering tribute to the constructive genius of Seth Low in to-day's Tribune you omitted to emphasize the profundity of his knowledge on world questions and the universality of his spirit—qualities, unfortunately, not possessed by many of the great men of America. During the ambassadorial conference at London in 1913 following the Armenian Turkish-Balkan war, when the Armenian question was submitted to the deliberations of the said body, an American ambassador, consisting of six former American ambassadors and three world-famed presidents of American universities, sent a cable message to the conference, wherein the signers expressed their deepest interest in Armenia and hoped that the conference would devise means for the protection of Armenian life, honor and property in Turkey.

This message was first submitted by me to the great men mentioned for approval, of whom Seth Low was one. Set Low indicated his unqualified approval of the message by return mail, adding further that his name should be attached to it whether or not the other men to whom it was submitted signed it. He was well versed on Armenian political and religious history, and his excellent knowledge of the Armenian language, which he considered as one of the most cultivated means of human speech, made of him a champion of the Armenian cause of the James Bryce type.

Just about a year ago, in the course of a conversation, he said to the writer on the subject: "If the great powers who, by several conventions, assumed the duty of the Armenians had done their duty to-day, I fearfully had been their Gladstone to-day. Turkey is incompetent and incorrigible in government, and that to serve Armenia is to serve civilization. I hope that following the great war Armenia will be cut loose from Turkey's misrule and created into an independent state, in Armenia Minor, which is the last kingdom of Armenia, and which arrangement, just and wise as it is, will not conflict with the right or interest of any one of the great powers."

A STUDENT OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS.

New York, Sept. 19, 1916.

The "Eight Hour" Law.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In the Tribune of this date you publish my letter of the 16th inst. relating to the so-called "eight-hour" law. In doing so you, inadvertently, no doubt, uttered a sentence of my letter which materially affects the logical connection and meaning.

The omitted sentence was: "Does Congress pass this act in the exercise of its essential attribute of sovereignty—the police power?" Then follows the paragraph beginning with the language, "If Congress under this power," meaning, of course, "the police power."

This omission may have given your readers an incorrect impression of my views intended to say. Also, I did not say or mean to imply, that the law passed by Congress "impairs the right of contract and is therefore void." What I intended to suggest was that it is probably unconstitutional mainly because it is class legislation and possibly for other reasons.

JAMES C. JENKINS.

New York, Sept. 20, 1916.

A Pitiable Spectacle.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is indeed a pitiable spectacle of helplessness or imbecility, or both, that is presented by our city at this time, when the comfort, the business and even the safety of its millions of inhabitants have been threatened during many days by a lot of worthless and irresponsible trouble makers, who, apparently, purpose to continue their destructive and conscienceless activities indefinitely and increasingly.

That these men are engaged in a criminal attempt to hold-up this community is evident. Their openly expressed intentions simply amount to a declaration that unless they get what they want they intend to make life intolerable for the rest of us. And is there any reason to suppose that they will abandon their efforts to augment their fat profits so long as they can continue to dupe, to strike and riot, while they themselves take no risk and are left free by the authorities? Surely there is some provision of law whereby these men can be restrained and punished. Otherwise it must be confessed that our city government has practically broken down!

W. C. C.

New York, Sept. 20, 1916.